

## Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL ROME 5036

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: GENOA DEVELOPMENTS FUEL PRE-ELECTORAL POLEMICS

REF: ROME 4842

SUMMARY: THE DC AND PSDI REACTED QUICKLY TO THE SEATING OF A COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST ADMINISTRATION IN THE CITY OF GENOA BY BRINGING DOWN THE PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENTS. SOCIALIST SECRETARY DEMARTINO'S ATTEMPTS TO GET THE GENOA PSI TO BACKTRACK HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSEUCCESFUL. INSTEAD THE ISSUE HAS INCREASED CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE PSI AND SET THE STAGE FOR AN INTERNAL CONFRONTATION AT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 8. THE OUTCOME IS UNCERTAIN, BOTH IN GENOA AND WITHIN THE PSI. MEANWHILE POLEMICS BETWEEN THE DC AND PSI CONTINUE, UNDERLING THE FACT THAT THE JUNE 15 REGIONAL ELECTIONS WILL ALSO BE AT A HIGH PITCH AND IN A SENSE A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON THE POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. MAKING GOOD THEIR WORDS, THE DC AND PSDI MEMBERS OF THE CENTER-LEFT GENOA PROVINCIAL AND LIGURIA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS RESIGNED APRIL 3. NO ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE, AT LEAST THUS FAR, TO FORM ALTERNATIVE COALITIONS TO THE CENTER-LEFT IN THESE GOVERNMENTS. THE MOVES WERE MADE PRIMARILY TO BRING

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PRESSURE ON THE GENOA SOCIALISTS TO MEND THEIR WAYS.

2. NATIONAL SECRETARY DEMARTINO'S ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION BY SUGGESTING THAT THE PROBLEM OF GENOA BE RESOLVED IN ROME BETWEEN THE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES HAS BEEN AT LEAST STALLED BY THE SUPPORT THE GENOA PSI HAS RECEIVED FROM OTHER LEADERS IN THE PARTY, NOTABLY DEMARTINO'S ARCHRIVAL MANCINI, WHO HAVE MADE THE PSI FREEDOM TO CHOOSE ITS ALLIES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT A PARTY AND INTER-PARTY ISSUE. WITHIN THE NATIONAL PSI THE ISSUE IS LEADING TO ANOTHER INTER-FACTIONAL TRIAL OF STRENGTH AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED APRIL 8. AT ISSUE ALSO AMONG THE SOCIALISTS IS WHETHER THE PARTY SHOULD FORMALLY PRONOUNCE THE FOUR-PARTY CENTER-LEFT FORMULA DEAD.

3. THE DC WITH ALMOST ONE VOICE HAS HARSHLY CRITICIZED THE PSI'S BEHAVIOUR IN GENOA AS A BREACH OF THE CENTER-LEFT PACT, AND POLEMICALLY CONFESSES ITS EMBARRASSMENT OVER HOW TO PRESENT THE PSI TO ITS ELECTORS AS ALLIES, OR POTENTIAL ALLIES, IN THE WAKE OF THE GENOA DEVELOPMENT (WHERE THE CENTER-LEFT HAS A NUMERICAL MAJORITY). A PROBLEM FOR DEMOCRACY IN ITALY, SAID A DC SPOKESMAN, WILL ARISE IF THE DC EMBARRASSMENT IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN EMBARRASSMENT OF THE ELECTORATE.

4. COMMENT: ADDED TO THE OUTSTANDING ELEMENTS OF DISCORD ON THE ISSUE OF LAW AND ORDER, THE GENOA DEVELOPMENTS HAVE WIDENED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CENTER-LEFT PARTIES AND INFLAMED POLEMICS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE MID-JUNE REGIONAL ELECTIONS.

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